BUSINESS / B1
Aussie firm sees 5B barrels of oil off Palawan

SPORTS / A18
Russia, Qatar win 2018, 2022 World Cup hosting rights

NEWS / A2
Senators nix P880M for condoms

SUPER / D1
Listmania: Super celebrates Inquirer's 25th anniversary with an issue that's packed with lists

Finance expert elected 20th president of UP

By Julie M. Aurelio



BANGER Pascual a "UP outsider"

AN INTERNATIONAL banker and finance expert who promises to address the financial problems of the perpetually cash-strapped premier state university was yesterday elected as the 20th president of the University of the Philippines in one of the shortest and least con-

FINANCE A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, December 4, 2010 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 359 P18

It's official: PH bests India as No. 1 in BPO

AFTER CHALLENGING India for the top position for several years, the Philippines is now the world leader in business support functions like shares services and business process outsourcing, according to the latest reports and trends analyses.

In fact, the country overtook India in these categories last year, according to

IT'S OFFICIAL A6

18-day Christmas truce



TRIP AND TREAT Grade school students of Infant Jesus Montessori in Dasmariñas, Cavite, finally arrive at "Zoocobia" in Pampanga hours after a bomb threat texted to a principal forced the 11-bus convoy to screech to a stop at the shoulder of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway in Pampanga on Friday. Police found no bomb to the delight of the young excursionists. (See story on Page A2.)

Gov't, Reds also agree to resume talks after 5 years

By Norman Bordadora

IN THE SPIRIT of the Christmas season, the Aquino administration and the communist rebels have agreed on an 18-day cease-fire starting on Dec. 16, as well as to resume formal peace talks in February, the government announced yesterday.

The cease-fire, to last until Jan. 3, would be the longest in the past 10 years of the local communist insurgency, chief government negotiator Alex Padilla said yesterday.

In an e-mail to the Inquirer, Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator of the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), confirmed the two sides had agreed to resume formal talks in Oslo, Norway, in February after a five-year hiatus.

On the suspension of military operations, Jalandoni said he and Padilla "agreed to highly recommend to their respective national leaderships" the declaration of a reciprocal cease-fire from Dec. 16 up to Jan. 3 in observance of the yuletide season and the New Year."

The agreements were reached in informal talks between the two parties in Hong Kong on Dec. 1 and 2, Padilla and

18-DAY A6

Largest US-Japan war games kick off Korean waters

SEOUL—The largest ever US-Japan war games kicked off Friday in waters off the tense Korean peninsula as the UN's atomic watchdog voiced "great concern" about North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

The maneuvers in the East China Sea dwarf US-South Korean exercises this week in the Yellow Sea that were meant as a show of force to Pyongyang after its regime launched a deadly artillery strike against South Korea.

In their joint display of military firepower dubbed "Keen Sword," the United States and its officially pacifist ally Japan started eight days of drills with 60 warships, 500 aircraft and 44,000 troops in southern Japanese waters.

The long-scheduled drill comes in a year when China has had a bitter maritime territorial row with Japan and quarrelled with Southeast Asian nations over what the regional giant claims are its ancestral waters.

China—which has resisted calls to publicly condemn its long-time ally North Korea over its artillery attack—has instead called for negotiations with Pyongyang, saying that to talk is better than to "brandish weapons." The North's artillery and

LARGEST A4



P-Noy faces blue Christmas, blames media

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
Inquirer Central Luzon
and Norman Bordadora

GERONA, Tarlac—President Aquino will be spending a dateless Christmas this year and it's the fault of the media.

"What is one to do? Even if someone is interested enough to want to be introduced to me, you put her name in the headlines right away," he told journalists who had followed him here for an awards ceremony for 13 electric cooperatives that had volunteered their people and equipment to restore power in the Northern Luzon provinces ravaged by Typhoon "Juan" last October.

It will be Mr. Aquino's first Christmas since he and Valenzuela Councilor Shalani Soledad

P-NOY A4

CA denies Ping petition to stop trial, lift arrest

By Marlon Ramos

FUGITIVE SEN. Panfilo Lacson has been dealt yet another legal setback in his attempt to evade arrest.

The Court of Appeals dismissed his petition seeking to stop a Manila regional trial court from hearing the case against him in connection with the 2000 Dacer-Corbito double murder. It also denied his request to nullify the warrant for his arrest issued by Manila RTC Branch 18 Judge Myra Garcia-Fernandez in February.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said the ruling removed any

CA DENIES A6

TELLING THE FILIPINO STORY TO THE WORLD 25

Editors' Note: For 25 days, we will be telling stories about the Inquirer to mark the paper's 25th anniversary on Dec. 9, 2010. Some are little inside stories but too pointing on how we cover unfolding events, some are mark-the-day stories that became talk-of-the-town types, others are turning-point stories that have changed the landscape of history; still others, big or small, seize the heart and never let go.
But whatever, the Inquirer will tell you the story.

From Mt. Pinatubo to Kuwait

By Ernie U. Sarmiento
Chief Photographer

PHOTOJOURNALISM is a visual language. As in stories, there are reasons that some photos are successful and why others fall short.

When photojournalists discuss photos in visual terms, the conversation goes beyond subjective likes and dislikes to more effectively address the value of the image.

Good photographers also think in visual terms when they are on assignment. They decide the moment to record, what to include, what to take out. They

FROM A4



RACE FOR LIFE Ex-PDI photo editor Boy Cabrido in June, 1991.

'Morong 43' hold hunger strike to get Noy attention

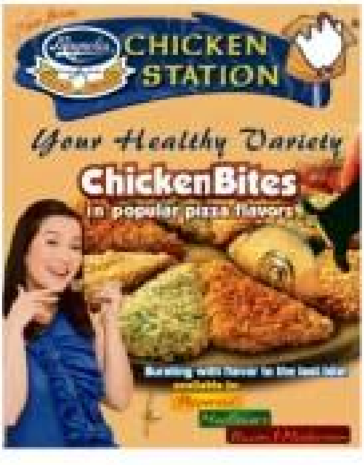
By Leila B. Salaverria, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Marlon Ramos

FRUSTRATED by the government's seeming indifference to their plight, the health workers collectively known as "Morong 43" yesterday embarked on a hunger strike to demand their freedom and protest their continued detention.

The health workers, whom police and military agents arrested on Feb. 6 on suspicion of being communist rebels, began the hunger strike at 8 a.m. at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City, where they are being held.

"This is the only recourse of action left us to end our continued illegal detention, there being no

MORONG A6



Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Bomb threat spoils field trip

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A bomb threat that turned out to be a hoax delayed by four hours yesterday the visit of 542 students from Cavite to the Clark Freeport in Pampanga.



Combing the buses

Very bad joke

99% BUDGET CUT

Senators nix P880M for condoms

Won't violate Constitution

Innocent phrases

2.04% growth rate

De Lima 'humbled' by Aquino vote of confidence

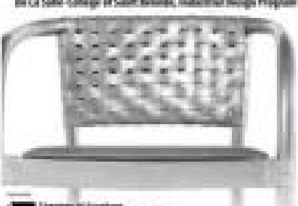
Visit the Longest Running Home Furnishings Retail Show!

Philippine Furniture + Furnishings Show

Nov. 26 - Dec. 05, 2010

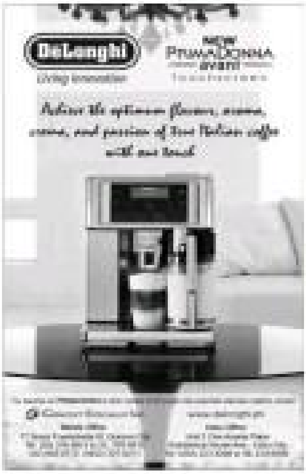
Innovate

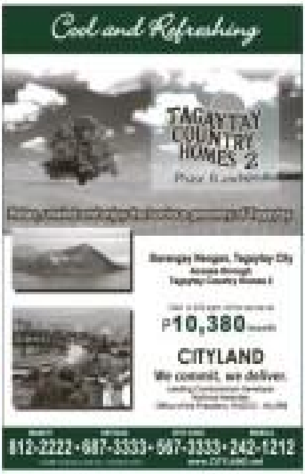
Bring your design to life



Vietnam hikes rice prices as Indonesia buys more

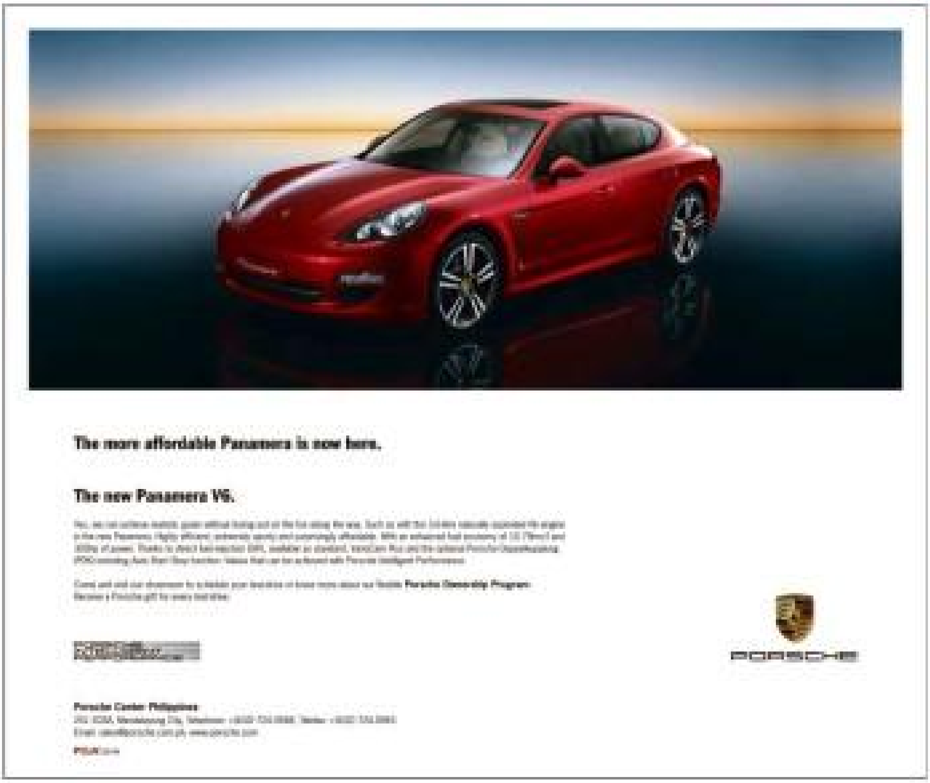
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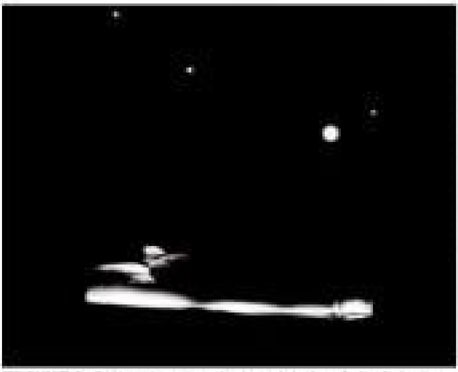


From Mt. Pinatubo to Kuwait

[illegible]

Money in film rolls

[illegible]



[illegible]

Exodus from Kuwait

[illegible]

Cabrido's moments

[illegible]

'Sandbags' in Ormoc

[illegible]

Scoop

[illegible]

Shot of the dictator

[illegible]

Terror

[illegible]

Neck injury

[illegible]

Largest US-Japan war games kick off Korean waters

[illegible]

Immediate threat

[illegible]

Tensions remain high

[illegible]

Propaganda war

[illegible]



BARANGAY, YOUTH BETS

Comelec hit for proclamation of dubious bets











18-day Christmas truce OKd by gov't, Reds

IN THE KNOW: World's longest communist insurgency

Off and on

All-out war

Root causes

Jalandoni's safety

Detained leftists

"Morong 43"

Acts of self-defense

Ground rules

'Morong 43' hold hunger strike to get Noy attention



FAST AND FURIOUS. Members of World Council of Churches, friends and supporters of "Morong 43" gather in front of the Department of Justice in Manila on Friday to demand the release of the detainees, 36 of whom have decided to go on a hunger strike.

It's up to court

Closure

Torture

"Free my mother"

Major concern for Palace

P-Noy faces blue Christmas, blames media

Right to privacy

Aussie gov't revises travel advisory

THE AUSTRALIAN government retained its travel advisory on the Philippines yesterday, this time omitting any reference to an "imminent" attack in the country.

"The main change is the removal of the language added on Nov. 2 referring to imminent threat of terrorist attack in Manila. It retains the pre-existing language on terrorism and also no change in level," Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesman Eduardo Malaya said in text messages to media outlets.

The new advisory has been posted on the Australian government's travel advisory and consular information online service.

The advisory still wants Australian citizens to "to exercise a high degree of caution in the Philippines because of the high threat of terrorist attack and the high level of serious crime."

Australia, along with France, United States, Canada, United Kingdom and New Zealand issued travel advisories last month, warning about an "imminent" terror attack in the Philippines.

The warnings followed reports of a foiled plot by terrorists to bring bombs into the United States and Europe via parcels.

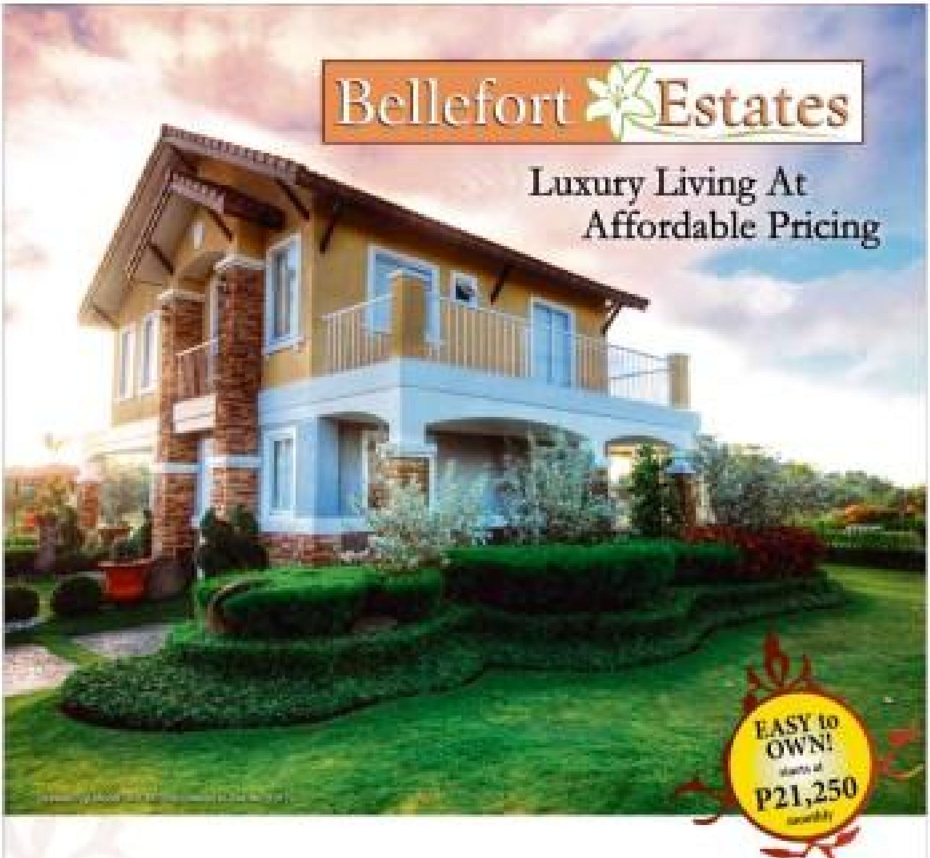
The Philippine government, through the DFA, complained about the harshness of the advisories.

During the recent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum held in Japan, President Aquino himself spoke with the leaders of the US and Canada about the advisories.

The Philippine envoy to the United Nations called on governments to be careful in issuing travel advisories. —*Jerome Aning*







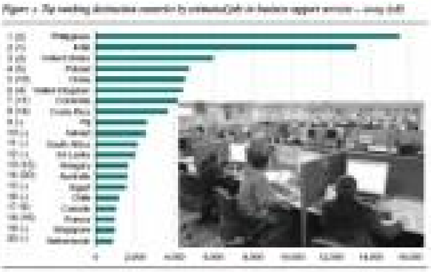


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It's official: PH bests India as No. 1 in BPO



Revenue: $5.7B in 2010

India is here

Support for BPO industry

Night work

CA denies Ping's petition to stop trial, lift arrest warrant

Forum-shopping

Prolonging the agony

No more comment

One of best buddies

Supporting role

Finance expert elected 20th president of UP besting 10 other bets

Vision paper

Pioneer banker

To-do list

Only one round of voting

6-year term

PNCC owes gov't P3.7B in concession fees–COA

Palace to PAL workers: Strike threat won't do

By Norman Bordadora

Pocket 'open skies'

'Maximal'

Cutting hair is 'in'–Tesda

By Tarra Quismundo



Plastic trash still top Manila Bay pollutants

By Kristine L. Alave

Congress bill

Dr. Nilo Chipongian: 84

The Daily Gospel



New shops open at Power Plant Mall, but are they really just shops?

Here's a secret. The Power Plant Mall at Rockwell was never just a mall.

It is much more than that.

From the beginning, the Power Plant has marched to its own beat, creating for itself its own space and identity amid the oversaturated landscape of retail malls. It drives one to think that perhaps, through chance or happenstance, that every square meter of concrete in the city has been at one time or shall be in the future, a mall. Self-proclaimed retail therapists never had it this good.

That being said, more business is still good business. Competition after all, drives innovation. And even if a parking lot is all that separates one mall from the next, the customer wins in the end.

And that is what makes the Power Plant so special and so "un-mall" like because despite the proliferation of a new mall-a-month, it has managed to stay true to its vision of delivering that unique Rockwell lifestyle.

That's why the new stores opening at the Power Plant is something to really get excited about. Great thought and care has always been taken when opening stores for the Power Plant Mall. Everything must fit and work towards delivering a complete and satisfying experience that is, as hard as others may try, distinctly Rockwell's.

For anyone who's seen everything and been everywhere, the Power Plant Mall is set to delight, surprise and exceed your expectations as to what mall is and what a mall should be.

We are of the mind that it should be more. Stores Opening from December 2010 to January 2011.

MUJI

"Back to our origins, into the future."

This is the philosophy of this Japanese brand that has now become its rallying call. "The concept of rationalizing products by totally eliminating wastefulness, and at the same time making them more attractive is at the heart of traditional Japanese aesthetics."

This is the thinking that goes into every Muji product. From shirts, to socks, to soap dishes it is a brand that defies branding, preferring to place usefulness before name recognition. And the end results are simple, well-designed and beautiful products that perfectly fit the Rockwell lifestyle.

Opening its first store in 1983, Muji fast became a favorite not only in Japan, but also worldwide. And just in time for the Holiday season, the wildly popular retail brand finally makes its way through the doors of the Power Plant Mall.

Brought in through the initiatives of the Store Specialists, Inc. Muji offers a myriad of offerings from gel-pens, bath items, accessories, stationery and of course quality apparel. With such an impressive array of offerings, Muji is sure to give mall-goers quite the Christmas shopping thrill and bang for their buck.



Payless ShoeSource



Democracy it seems, arrived in a pair of pumps.

Payless ShoeSource believes that people have the right to have fashionable footwear and accessories without the barriers of high prices. Call it fashion equality if you will. So now more people can enjoy stylish looks at a great price and outstanding customer service, all in an easy-to-shop environment, adding to a delightful Power Plant Mall experience.

With brands such as Airwalk, Dexter, Champion, American Eagle by Payless and Zoe&Zac, the store is a shoe-in on your Christmas shopping list.

Payless also boast designer labels such as Lela Rose for Payless, Christian Siriano for Payless and Isabel Toledo for Payless for those looking for a bit more flash on their feet.

Style, expression, quality and value, all come together to give mall-goers a range of brands that connect and resonate with the Power Plant set.

Digital Walker Zoom

Technology has advanced so much so that aspects of our lives have been irrevocably altered to the point where human behavior has become more malleable than before. Take for instance the digital camera. With digital cameras becoming more and more affordable, with better quality and more memory, it's not science fiction to think that entire lives can now be documented.

Digital Walker Zoom takes that thesis and brings their knowledge and expertise to the Power Plant Mall. Photography buffs and even the point-and-shoot crowd can look forward to having one of the premier digital photography stores right in the mall.

Digital Walker Zoom not only offers great cameras and accessories for the professional lensmen, but also the camera enthusiasts and those simply looking to find the best gear in the Metro. The camera is about to be as ubiquitous as air.

Learn more about them at www.digitalwalkerzoom.com

Espressamente illy

Translated, it means "expressly illy" making a fine point in distinguishing itself as coffee for the connoisseur.

And just to reassure you that these guys know coffee, they've been brewing our morning fuel since 1933 using their unique blend of high quality Arabica beans. They've since added beans from South and Central America, India and Africa creating an unmistakable illy flavor and now have brought their talents and tastes to the Power Plant Mall.

The stylish café combines all the classical espresso drinks with all day breakfast, hot paninis, pasta lunches, pastries and evening cocktails. With a wide variety of hot and cold coffee-based recipes, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, set in an authentic Italian-designed café, illy raises coffee culture to an art form.

A fiery desire for quality and innovative design of its bars and café's makes this true Italian Coffee experience a treat, try indulging in this holiday.



Bistecca

Warning: Do not attempt to eat these steaks alone.



This statement, written on the Bistecca menu, says it all. From the Bistecca 122 to the Sunday Rib Roast, this fine dining restaurant serves up serious steaks that's perfect for sharing. The inspiration? The Lindsen family vacations in Florence, Tuscany.

Seated just off the corner from Joya Lofts and Towers at Rockwell, Bistecca's specialties include the sought-after Big Group cuts — the Bistecca 122, a kilo of USDA grade bone-in rib-eye, the alla Fiorentina, at least 1.5 kilos of USDA grade porterhouse, as well as solo cuts like the Super Prime Boneless Rib-eye New York Cut, the Bone-in and Boneless Tenderloin.

Of course, diners shouldn't pass up the sides — there's rosemary and garlic mashed potatoes, roasted bacon potatoes and delectable shoestring truffle French fries. Bistecca also carries a notable selection of wines from both Old and New World wine producers.

"The cuisine is crystal clear — steaks and all the fun things you'd like to go with it," said Executive Chef Miguel Garcia. "Whoever needs that steak fix can come to Bistecca and be assured of a high-quality experience."

Barcino



After six years in the Philippine Market, Spanish cuisine and culture stalwart Barcino finally finds its true home at Power Plant Mall.

From its humble beginnings as a little deli in Ortigas birthed from the desire of Oscar Bosch (then part and party to the brand Barcino established as the go-to source for Spanish wine here in the country) to have a place in what he deemed as a paradise that actually served and promoted good and affordable Spanish wine and tapas.

With that Barcino Gourmet was born, and the rest is history. Named in honour of the former Latin name of the Catalan capital, Barcino was snowballing and started to gain a following from European expatriates and the trendy crowd of Manila. It was then that young Spaniards Dani Aliaga and Sergi Rostoll decided to expand the operations of what was at that point a wildly popular but not quite defined wine and tapas bar.

With impressive wine lists and the capability to floor customers with straight-up genuine Spanish tastes and treats, Barcino looks to be yet another budding star in Power Plant Mall's famed Lopez Strip. Viva España!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Section 20

EDITORIAL



The polite word

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

A statement about honor and excellence for all

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

Six years of unshared growth

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

A lot to give

YOUNG BLOOD

Jeremiah Maria S. Santos

Starting from where the children are

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

Clash of the titans

BUSINESS MATTERS



Roberto F. de Ocampo

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

THEY SAID

Lying honorably

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

LETTERS

Will SC be 'burial ground' of case on coco levy ownership?

Why 'open skies' policy will fail PH tourism now





Across the NATION

Organic agriculture to get ₱900M

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Agriculture (DA) would allocate ₱900 million next year to promote organic agriculture, a ranking DA official said on Thursday.

3 engineers of DPWH get slap on wrist for road mess



MARRIAGE
New priests are ordained at Metropolitan Cathedral in Cebu City amid challenging times for the Catholic Church.

Teachers to return to work in Basilan town

Boy suffers injuries in dog attack in mall

CPP: AFP fishing for info on Ka Roger



COMMUNIST spokesperson

More power seen from coal, but costs to go up, too





NO VISITORS, except for a lone policewoman, the police informant Grace Capistrano, in her hospital room in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Capistrano miraculously survived several stab wounds and a gunshot wound to narrate her ordeal.

'Salvage' cops restricted to camp, but not detained

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—The two policemen charged with the attempted murder of a female police informant were ordered restricted to camp, but not detained, while awaiting proceedings that could lead to their dismissal, authorities said yesterday.

PO1 Jerome Marigoc, who was formerly assigned to Calauan, and PO2 Mario Natividad, who has been recently transferred to the Rizal Provincial Police Office, were placed in a holding unit at the police provincial headquarters in Taytay, Rizal.

This means, "they will be accounted for from time to time and must ask permission first before leaving the camp," said Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) police director, in a phone interview.

> 'They will be accounted for from time to time and must ask permission first before leaving the camp ...'

He said the two policemen, however, could not be detained after they posted bail amounting to P210,000 each and were released from the Pagsanjan police station in Laguna, where they were charged with the attempted murder of Grace Capistrano.

Capistrano was abducted allegedly by the two policemen in her home in Angono, Rizal. She was four months pregnant and lost her baby in a miscarriage following her ordeal.

Capistrano received 24 stab wounds and a gunshot wound in the leg, before she was left for dead in a ravine in Pagsanjan.

Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Laguna police director, identified the third suspect in the crime as Wilfredo Monteliola, 38, a police asset.

Monteliola remains at large after Capistrano analyzed and identified him as the one who stabbed her with an ice pick as they were on their way to Laguna.

Cruz said it was possible that Monteliola had already been killed by the two policemen "to prevent him from testifying against the two policemen."

Cruz, however, also said police received information that Monteliola could be hiding in Metro Manila or Rizal.

Capistrano received P5,000 in financial aid from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, but the cash has since run out.

In a previous interview, she said she now survives on begging for food or cash from another patient in the hospital where she is recuperating from her stab wounds. *—Maricar Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



INQUIRER Visayas

Tug-of-war over Boracay prime lots



PROPERTIES congest the beach of Boracay

Multiple claimants

Tax payment receipts

DENR process

'No build' zone



Court rulings

No choice

Disappointment

Miraflores bill

'Balay ni Tan Juan'

Big draw for PH eleven

Late equalizer spoils crack Singaporeans' debut





Russia, Qatar hosts of 2018, '22 World Cups

'Battle of the best' NCA derby Dec. 14

Patriots play just one import vs Indonesia five

PSC: ₱1.3B needed for grassroots sports plan



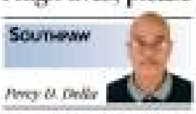
James, booed, destroys Cavs

Mendoza gains net finals

Marc Anthony Reyes

Arcilla begins defense of PCA Open singles title

High summitry, not high fives, please



Pacquiao joins 'Bakbakan' today



SPORTS

Tubid three-mendous as Kings edge Tigers

By Musong R. Castillo



Kenyans favorites anew in 2nd QCIM tomorrow

WHY PAY

ATTURO TIRES

TRACMAX TIRES

ABOT-KAYA.
ABOT LAHAT.
Dalawang UnliTxt na pwedeng pagpilian.

red to red
UNLITXT COMBO
P10
Unlimited texts red to red
+10 minutes of calls red to red and SMART
+20 texts sa lahat ng networks

New
red to SMART
*UNLITXT COMBO
P15
Unlimited texts red to red and SMART
+10 minutes of calls red to red and SMART
+10 texts sa lahat ng networks

Unli Call and Text Combo 20
Unli Call and Text Combo 30

red
mobile

Aplus METRO

‘Christmas lanes’ to ease holiday traffic

MMDA to utilize side streets as alternate routes for private motorists

By Tina G. Santos

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will open next week its so-called “Christmas lanes” that will serve as alternate routes for motorists using Edsa.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino said “Christmas lanes” will utilize mostly side streets and were the same routes used during the construction of the Edsa Metro Rail Transit (MRT-3) in the late ’90s.

“For their own convenience, we are asking the public to use these alternate routes. We will clear these routes of obstructions and illegal traffic outlets as an aid them,” Tolentino said during a meeting with mall operators and representatives of commercial establishments along Edsa.

Traffic along Edsa is heavy especially during the Christmas season due to the influx of shoppers in Metro Manila, particularly in malls, many of which are located along major thoroughfares.

Tolentino said the special lanes, designated primarily for private motorists, will help decongest Edsa.

“These alternate routes are not being utilized fully, resulting in further congestion on Edsa,” he said, adding that he has already directed the Traffic Engineering



‘Kuliglig’ operators bring case to Manila court

All-night drinking sessions

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



Summit eyes solutions to traffic woes

Proposals

Christmas lanes . . .

From North to South

From South to North

METROBRIEFS

Man stabs dead live-in partner

New Bicutan-Sucat toll road



Welcome to the country's one & only true private cinema.

GREENBELT



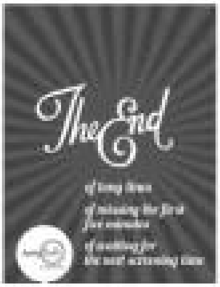
EXPERIENCE IT BEST

NOW SHOWING

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3D

DIGITAL CINEMAS



BOOK AND BUY YOUR TICKETS AT THE NEW ENHANCED SURESEATS.COM

The WORLD

Leaks: US alarmed at 'corrupt' Afghans

WASHINGTON—The United States is exasperated with the pervasiveness of corruption in Afghanistan and President Hamid Karzai's "paranoid" view of the world, leaked cables said on Thursday.

AFP

WorldBriefs

Israel's worst fire ever kills 41; international help arrives

AP

UK hostage death in Afghanistan blamed on US grenade

Reuters

Arsenic-munching bacterium redefines 'life as we know it'

Reuters

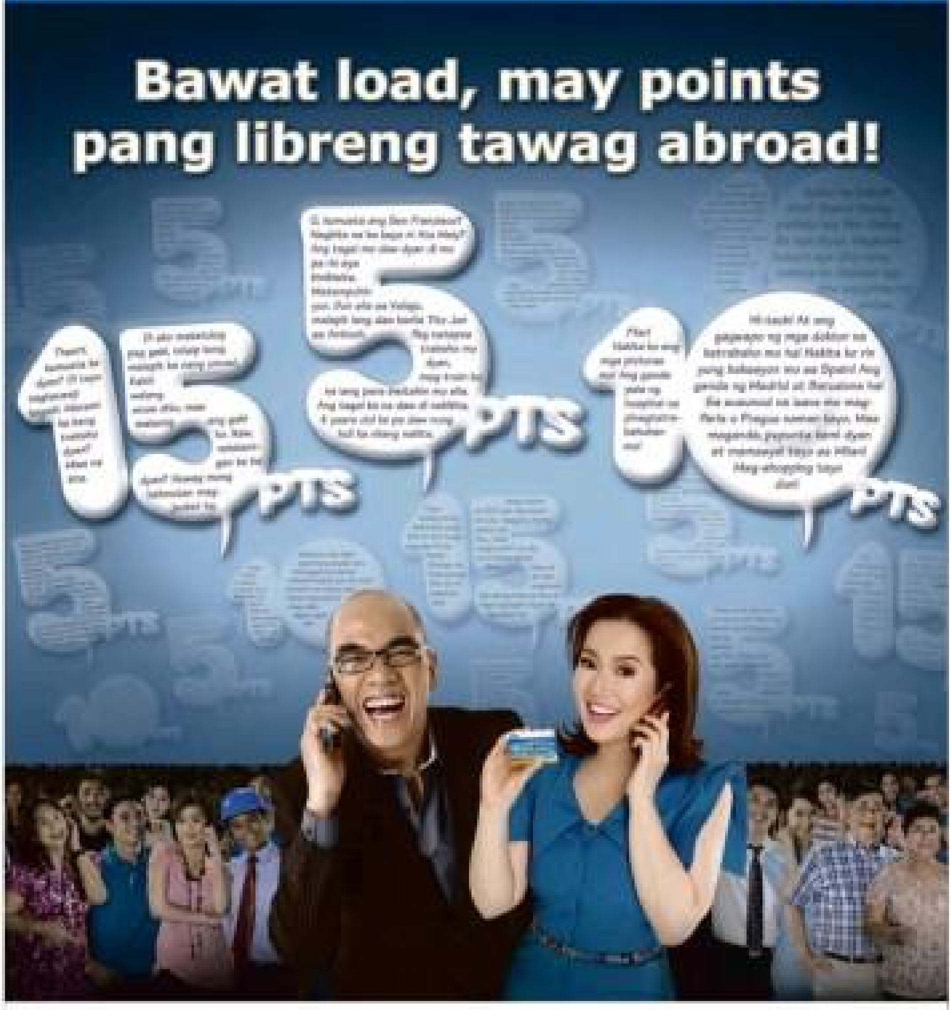
Oprah Winfrey channel gears up for debut

New York Times News Service



SMART

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HelLow Load Value [illegible]	1 day	[illegible]
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BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Many nonperforming energy contracts face gov't cancellation** /B2
- **Economic growth can be sustainable, WB says** /B5
- **US payrolls seen up in Nov, jobless rate steady** /B6

Aussie firm confirms huge oil deposit

Offshore Palawan area seen to contain 5B barrels

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE	STOCK MARKET
43.88	27.58



Stocks end higher

AUSTRALIAN FIRM Nido Petroleum Ltd. has confirmed the presence of liquid hydrocarbons within Service Contract 58 in offshore Palawan, estimating the area to potentially contain more than 5 billion barrels of oil.





T-bill rates seen to decline further on increased liquidity

Investors still prefer risk-free debt paper

[illegible]



CAFE OF CHAMPIONS [illegible]

Coconut oil exports surge 33.4%

[illegible]

Many nonperforming energy contracts face gov't cancellation

DOE wants 'serious investors' to take over projects

[illegible]

Gov't to conduct bond swaps on regular basis

[illegible]

Globe ties up with SM group on rewards program

[illegible]

Meralco to retire 5 substations to cut systems loss by ₱37M

[illegible]



[illegible]

Gov't out to boost PH as ICT investment site

Health may spell wealth for miners

Trade policies sought to capitalize on highly skilled human resources



Importers seek safety check on local meat

SMC unit eyes $500-M loan

Firm to finance purchase of more power facilities

[illegible]

DOE probes integrity of FPIC pipeline

[illegible]

Aussie firm confirms huge oil deposit

From page B1

[illegible]

Importers seek safety check …

From page B1

[illegible]

Health may spell …

From page B1

[illegible]

Philippine Stock Exchange

[illegible]

Currencies

[illegible]

LIBRE Classifieds
EVERY THURSDAY IN INQUIRER LIBRE
Accepts "For Sale", "For Hire" and "For Rent" of Real Estate, Transportation and General Items / Services.

Economic growth can be sustainable, WB says

Energy-efficient technologies provide immediate solution

Media tablets, smartphones edging out PCs

Stocks end higher



BUSINESS

US payrolls seen up in Nov., jobless rate steady

Market optimistic that economy on way to firm recovery

China declares shift to 'prudent' policy



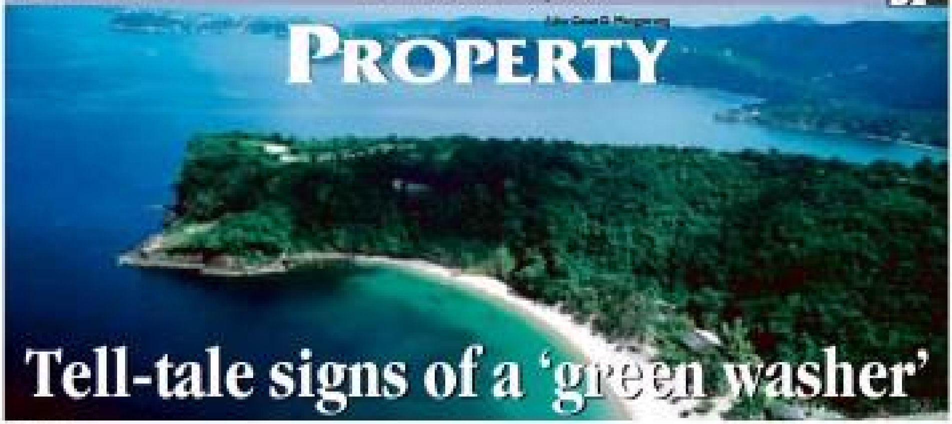
Stocks rise on US data

Samsung promotes heir apparent; shares hit record



Nissan rolls out Leaf electric car

PROPERTY



Tell-tale signs of a 'green washer'

By Tessa R. Salazar

HOW DO you know if a developer or a certain development you are attracted to isn't just playing the horn section of the environmental bandwagon just for show, or worse, misleading potential buyers on the environmental merits of the project?

Felino Palafox Jr., principal architect and urban planner-founder and managing partner of Palafox Associates, calls these types of developments "green washers."

Greenwashing, Inquirer Property columnist Amado de Jesus describes, refers to any act of misleading consumers about the environmental merits of a company, its products and services. It's also considered an act of greenwashing if a product or service is promoted as being good for Mother Earth without any basis in fact, and could lead to more harm on the environment, and on buyers of the product and service.

Steven Dorn, writer for the newspaper Valley Advocate, notes that worldwide, greenwashing since Earth Day in 1990 has been sharply rising.

Palafox adds that being "architecturally green" is not simple. "There are green design principles, criteria, rules, (where (before) a project or development can be considered) green architecture," he says. Inquirer Property learned that it took Palafox a special course in Architecture and Sustainability at Harvard Graduate School of Design, and then more time afterward for Palafox Associates to qualify for membership to the US Green Building Council.

Inquirer Property asked De Jesus the tell-tale signs of greenwashers. Raise the red flag if you notice any developer who claims to know the preservation of the environment doing the following:

- The development involves massive cutting and filling of terrain.
- Large trees are cut and replaced.
- Transplanting nonindigenous vegetation on the project site.
- The houses and other structures are constructed with no passive design principles.
- If the development is seaside, the contour of the land is significantly altered, causing erosion and disturbing marine ecosystems. Coastal ecosystems are especially sensitive to human encroachments, as even artificial light can disrupt nesting sites of endangered marine wildlife.
- Sewage together with wastewater treatment is inadequate.
- The development's ecosystem has been altered drastically while the developer markets itself—and the project—to be conscientious of the environment, funding or sponsoring green events, or donates to environmental causes even as their operations or products destroy large ecosystems. Or they may outsource their manufacturing to companies abroad where toxic wastes are dumped.

On the other hand, the following measures can be guiding principles for sound, nature-friendly property developments:

1 Proof of life. Jose Rizaro Pujol III, president of Edge Properties, the developer of Kamayan Cove in Nasugbu, Batangas, reveals: "The World Wildlife Fund for Nature once told us that it was the turtles that would give us nature's stamp of approval. If they're coming back, obviously we were doing something correct." Pujol adds that, at certain times in the year, there are more turtles than humans visiting Bamboo Beach in Kamayan Cove.

"The rare Olive Ridley Turtles are living proof that I've done the right things with this beachside development," Pujol points out.

2 Shoreline protection campaigns. Kamayan Cove management had also conducted turtle protection and awareness campaigns among the locals and fisherfolk in the Nasugbu area. Merchants and guests have been urged not to venture near marked shorelines, in deference to the turtles. Several of Bamboo Beach's facilities revolve around the lives of the turtles. No loud music and parties are allowed. Even night lights at the seaside is diffused and unobtrusively positioned so as not to scare the turtles away.

3 Structures not taller than trees. Leandro V. Locsin Partners and landscape artist Flores Verdosa interpreted Kamayan Cove's challenge to blend with nature, and not build it taller than the surrounding trees.

4 Avoid beach erosion. Edge Properties tapped a team of engineering consultancy firms to advise the firm specifically on environmental concerns.

"Any disturbance that you do will eventually cause erosion. It might be desirable from a business standpoint. You have two choices, you can do that and make it a purely business concern and then do mitigating measures. Or you can work with the natural contours of the land, which is what we decided to do," Pujol said.

(Have you yourself found out how to build in harmony with nature? E-mail the author at tsalazar@inquirer.com.ph)

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

HPV can cause genital warts

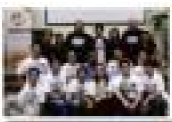


Pinays warned against risk of iron deficiency



The Future of Science is Bright!

Meralco Development Center (MMLDC) and Philippine Science High School System build a culture of excellence with the 2010 National Science Fair



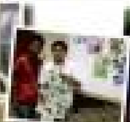


















'Small' developers key to solving housing woes



Better position

Increased number

Decongest

'Way to go! Cuz!'

LIVING ARCHITECTURE



Marcos de Guzman Jr.

DALUYON IN PALAWAN

Setting the standard for green resorts





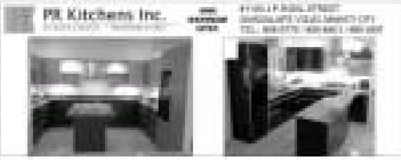
Resort master plan

Remarkable green installations





Moldex expects. . .



PROPERTY

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang

Moldex expects robust growth for realty sector

By Theresa S. Samaniego

LET'S FACE it: in a crowded city like Manila, it's not easy to find a dwelling place that could offer a relaxing, unobstructed view of the stunning Makati skyline and Manila Bay.

There is no denying, too, that with the number of mid- and high-rise buildings that have mushroomed in the metropolis, not to mention the traffic-ridden roads that have become an eyesore, an esthetically pleasing view has now become a precious commodity—perhaps, even more costly.

Moldex Realty Inc. proved, however, that this should not be the case.

At the recent blessing ceremony of its latest high-rise development named the Grand Towers, Moldex showed that a good view, even within the heart of busy Manila, can be affordable and within reach.

Built differently

Moldex Realty president Rey Ignacio M. Diaz explained that the Grand Towers had been constructed differently since the buildings were structured to have a "curvy shape" instead of the typical rectangular, boxed condominiums. Such a structure, which is also common only for high-end developments, would allow the units to have a better view of the metropolis.

"You may ask/notice [illegible], if ever you have seen our project, which is laid out like this one, Grand Towers' buildings are curved and curved buildings are more expensive than the usual rectangular and square buildings that we see. And the shape of buildings are usually suited for the high-end markets but we dare to adopt this scheme for this mid-end venture," Diaz said in an interview with the Inquirer.

"Look at the other buildings of the same class in this area, all are either rectangular or square. So we're not gonna do the same, we can have an edge by being different and how do we become different by innovating," he further noted.

Located on Pablo Ocampo Street, the company's latest high-rise development, which covers some 10,000 sq m in floor area, is composed of two towers with 47 floors each. About 90 percent of the units for Tower 1 had already been sold, while Tower 2 had already registered a 70-percent take-up.



RESORT-LIKE pool at the Grand Towers

Diaz noted that Moldex Realty has already started in August this year the turnover of condo units at Tower 1 to its new occupants. For Tower 2, the real estate firm expects to start the turnover of its units within April or September next year.

Payment schemes

According to Diaz, Grand Towers offers affordable 20-22 sq m studio-type units, priced at P1.6 million, that can be financed through favorable payment schemes.

"We have a number of ways for you to own here. One way, of course, is through in-house financing wherein you can pay a cash flow and pay it by installments. Or you can get external financing through the banks (private banks) or through Pag-Ibig. We're open on those kinds of schemes," Diaz explained.

For instance, a studio unit would only require a monthly amortization of P11,000, payable within a 25-year period and can be coursed through Pag-Ibig.



GRAND Towers' gym



DIAZ believes that within the next five years the real estate sector will continue to grow.

Target market

Meanwhile, a 30-sq m one-bedroom unit is priced at P2.3 million, while a two-bedroom unit ranges at P3.2 million.

Diaz pointed out that the different units at the Grand Towers cater to a wide range of target market.

"But principally, we are aiming for students of nearby educational institutions like De La Salle University, College of St. Benilde and St. Scholastica's College. These are growing, expanding institutions and yearly more and more students need a good place to stay in," Diaz explained.

"So we are targeting their parents who would like to buy units for them as well as investors, who in the future, would also to lease out these units to students. We also have many professionals, such as junior executives (working in) the Makati area, who decided to invest. So we have a wide range of clientele here," Diaz noted.

MOLDEX, B2-2



2b LIFESTYLE



JanSport's co-founder Skip Yowell tours Manila and Davao campuses


SKIP Yowell gives valuable advice to students.

Hippie shares lessons with students

By Tatin Yang
Contributor

SKIP YOWELL is a self-proclaimed hippie, and this is evident even now that he's in his 60s—his laid-back dressing style, his relaxed way of talking, his philosophy in life and business.

Our biggest impression perhaps about the hippie lifestyle is that hippies are happy-go-lucky, merely relying on chance and the universe to carve out the future.

This was never in Skip's case.

That is not to say, however, that Skip did not listen to the universe. It was those mountain treks that inspired avid climbers Yowell and Murray Pletz, two cousins who founded the brand with Jan Lewis (the Jan in JanSport).

JanSport, like most inspired ideas, was born out of necessity. As outdoorsmen, Yowell and Pletz saw an unfulfilled need for better outdoor equipment which were durable and functional. It was their experiences in the rough terrain that spurred them to perfect the ideal frame pack, employing what were considered revolutionary changes then, such as using an aluminum frame for a lighter load, a nylon coil zipper in lieu of metal which freezes in cold temperatures, and using a new but durable material for their bags.

Last week, Skip toured universities around Manila and Davao, hoping to inspire students with his success story.

From a company that considered 30 orders to be a lot, they now sell eight million backpacks a year worldwide—not bad for a bunch of hippies.

This did not happen overnight, but through learning experiences, setbacks and personal discoveries.

If you missed Skip's campus tour, his book, "The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder and Other Mountains," is a good read for students and everyone who needs encouragement to follow his or her dreams.

In "The Hippie Guide," Yowell takes you through the birthing pains of a mom-and-pop enterprise, beginning with a small suggestion from a campus store proprietor in the early '70s that propelled JanSport's daypacks into the prominent school accessory it is today.

Skip advises eager entrepreneurs to learn to take risks, not to rest on their laurels, and most of all, to have fun.

Yowell says that he would not have lasted this long in the company if he was not enjoying himself, and shared the passion with employees. He goes for an atmosphere of fun and creativity.

He also refuses to be left behind and uses his interests to help the brand evolve. The daypack he's using is a prototype for [illegible].

The pack has the traditional JanSport look, but inside, it's been fitted out to support the rapidly growing digital culture, with partitions for frequently used devices like a laptop and an iPad.

At 64, he capped down his activities to hikes, in place of the rigorous peak climbing of his youth. But Skip Yowell is certainly not short of finding new mountains to climb.

"The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder & Other Mountains" is available at Amazon.com.



In the mix



Silver moon



Brocade indulgence

Catch everyone's attention at holiday soirees with rich brocade pieces reminiscent of an era when rock opulence ruled

Rock candy



Rock steady



Anjo Caram: The Lion that roared

Beyond basketball, he looks forward to going into business—to help people gain employment







How I learned to drive

Just like what the green light says—"go," but with precaution

Coordination skills

On the road

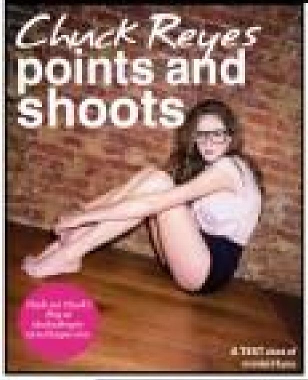
Dream come true


Make your moment
perfectly lite.
NEW
Nestlé
Coffee-mate
Lite
50%
less fat
GREAT
CREAMY
TASTE





Who, why, what and how this young lad started learning photography

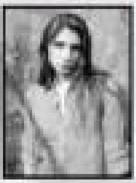


By [illegible]

THE MINUTE you check out Chuck Reyes' photo blog, you would immediately add him [illegible] to your list.

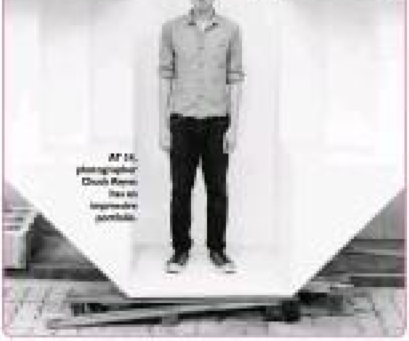
[illegible]





Top 10 most played songs on *Shoot Playlist* in my iTunes:

[illegible]





Super LifeStyle
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation



LISTMANIA

Super celebrates Inquirer's 25th anniversary with an issue that's packed with lists—places to go, websites to visit, shows to watch, things to enrich your life



CHEERS TO YOUR 25 YEARS!

Jemson Packaging Corporation · Oleo Fats, Inc. · Pilmico Foods Corporation · Purechem Corporation · Resourceful Marketing · Utopia Packaging Corporation

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Junior Chefs Christmas Cooking Workshop at Crowne Plaza

Holidays at Dusit Thani Manila



A STARRY, STARRY NIGHT FOR ASB CONDOTELS

PANDESAL WITH A TWIST



Microtel Hotels · Resorts

24/7 Super Radar

Manila, Kay Exciting!

The city's 25 swingiest party places

[illegible]



The dance clubs

[illegible]

Restaurant bar with DJ music

[illegible]

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Pancake House Group unveils Orange Card

[illegible]



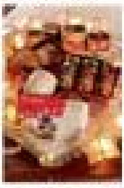
Christmas Banquet Ball at Hyatt Hotel

[illegible]

Feast on Continental cuisine at BluFish

[illegible]

PASKONG PINOY UNFOLDS AS CHRISTMAS PAPER BAG THEME OF PAN DE MANILA

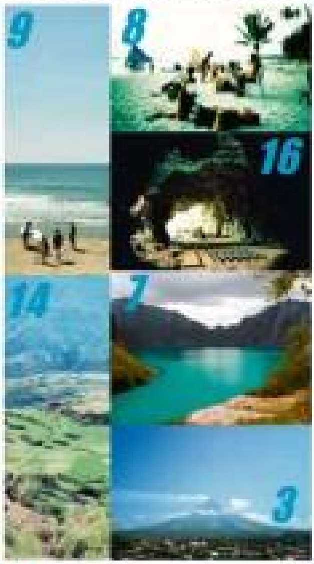


[illegible]

[illegible]

25 THINGS TO DO IN THE PHILIPPINES ...

... before fantasizing about exploring other countries



Text and photos by [illegible]

1. Go whitewater rafting in Cagayan de Oro.
2. Visit Batanes.
3. See Mt. Mayon up close.
4. Swim with the whale sharks in Donsol.
5. Climb Mt. Pulag and be awed by its sea of clouds.
6. Dive, swim and explore Palawan's underground river.
7. Hike and let the view of Mt. Pinatubo crater take your breath away.
8. Party in your bikini in Boracay.
9. Surf's up! Choose your wave—La Union, Zambales or Baler, Quezon.
10. Missed out on the pristine beauty of Boracay 15 years ago? Visit Malapascua, Cebu.
11. Dive and see the rich marine life of Anilao, Batangas.
12. Travel back in time—go to Vigan.
13. Let Bohol woo you with its many offerings—the Chocolate Hills, the tarsier, the Loboc River Cruise, old churches and the beach.
14. Go high! Drive to the Mountain Province of Sagada. Check out the caves, the hanging coffins and enjoy the laidback lifestyle.
15. Grab a Visita Iglesia map, visit [illegible] pottery studio, eat at [illegible] and unwind at Casa San Pablo.
16. Spend an entire week up north. Take a road trip from Manila to Vigan, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Apari and Batanes!
17. Try wakeboarding in Camsur.
18. Check out Malate, Old Manila and all their secret spots.
19. There are many reasons to love Davao. Kublai's artworks, its proximity to the beach, the tasty pastil and juicy durian. And did I mention that it's a smoke-free city?
20. Spend a weekend roughing it in Anawangin and Capones in Zambales.
21. Check out our colorful fiestas and document them with your camera: Ati-atihan, Sinulog, Masskara, Dinagyang, Higantes, Panagbenga and more.
22. Pick your own strawberries at the Strawberry Fields in La Trinidad, Benguet.
23. Go to Pampanga for a tag.
24. If it's too hot in Manila, grab a few friends and take a quick trip to Tagaytay.
25. Enjoy a food trip in Iloilo. You'll never go hungry in this city.





SM

DEPARTMENT STORE

HOLIDAY HOURS

MEGAMALL / NORTH EDSA

MALL OF ASIA

10AM - 12MIDNIGHT

ALL SATURDAYS

ALL OTHERS 10am - 10pm

Manila, Kay Exciting!

From page D3

11. The Balcony, G/F, Doña Angela Gardens, 730 C. Palanca Jr. St., Legaspi Vill., Makati, T: [illegible]
12. The Establishment, (The Hall, Crystal Room, Tulipan) Unit A, The Fort Entertainment Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, T: [illegible]
13. Fiamma, 32 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati, T: [illegible]
14. [illegible], Salcedo Village, Makati, T: [illegible]
15. [illegible], Makati Ave., Makati, T: [illegible]
16. M Cafe, G/F, Greenbelt 4, Makati Ave., Makati, T: [illegible]
17. [illegible], Greenbelt 4, [illegible] St., Makati, T: [illegible]
18. [illegible] Lounge, [illegible] Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati, T: [illegible]

Live music and DJs

19. [illegible], The Collective, 7274 Malugay St., San Antonio Vill., Makati, T: [illegible]
20. Café Havana, G/F, Greenbelt 3, Makati, T: [illegible] and 1903 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila, T: [illegible]
21. [illegible], G/F, Greenbelt 3, Makati, T: [illegible]
22. [illegible], The Fort Strip, T: [illegible]
23. [illegible], G/F, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati, T: [illegible]
24. The Distillery, Jupiter, 36 Jupiter St., Makati, T: [illegible]
25. Members Only, The Fort, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, T: [illegible]

Information is subject to change without prior notice. For more information on events, log on to [illegible] or pick up your free copy of [illegible] at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. Submit information on your establishments and schedules before Wednesday to [illegible]. For inclusion in this column.

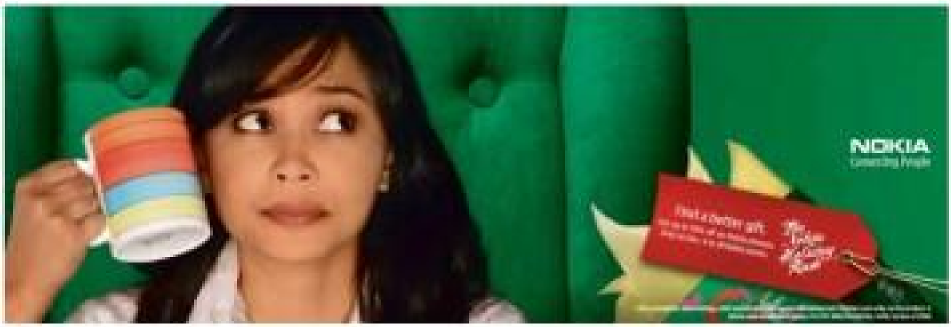
Super LifeStyle



25 social networking mistakes that'll get you defriended/unfollowed

Things that bug us on our social network feeds. It probably bugs you, too, unless you're the culprit.





25 Pinoys you should be following on Twitter

Some are funny, some are inspiring, some will make you feel like a voyeur. Here are some Pinoys you should add to your following list if you haven't already.

25 Websites you should bookmark

25 social networking mistakes that'll get you . . .

TMI

Self-promotion

Getting in someone's face

Public breakups

Hashtags

Stealth bragging

Too opinionated

Getting caught in a lie

Wild retweeting

Proof of wild nights

Sexy anything

Racist comments

Tagging unflattering photos

Spoilers

Oversharing

Wall flooding

Quit Poking!

Indiscriminate liking

Trending Topic

Check Yourself Out



Required reading : 25 Pinoy Comic books

By Budjette Tan
Contributor

QUITE recently, two comic book related items grabbed people's attention.

The first was an announcement of the local comic book scene that declared that the Filipino komiks industry is struggling, if not dying.

The other was Sen. Lito Lapid wanting to establish a National Graphic Novel of Arabesq. In one website, people left comments saying the senator's idea was a waste of our people's money. Goes to show how some people don't see the cultural and historical importance of Filipino comic books these days.

Maybe it's just because they don't know there's a new and exciting generation of Pinoy comic books that have been emerging for the last ten years.

So, here's a list of Pinoy comic books that have won the hearts of comic book fans, non-comic book readers, and some have even won the recognition of the Manila Critic's Circle and garnered a National Book Award.

Diwa by Rodney Veneza, Ryan Orosco, Gilbert Monsanto

Lastikman by Gerry Alanguilan, Arnold Arre, Edgar Tadeo

Published by Mango Comics in 2003 and 2005, these works feature the updated, modern-day versions of these classic and beloved Pinoy super heroes.

Ang Kagila-gilalas na Pakikipagsapalaran ni Zsazsa Zaturnnah by Carlo Vergara

Gay beautician swallows a magical stone the size of a bola de bola and transforms into an buxom-ex-goddess, anatomically correct, superwoman! This award-winning comic book has already been adapted into an award-winning musical and an award-winning movie, starring ... wait for it ... Zsazsa Padilla and Rustom Padilla!

Mythology Class by Arnold Arre

After Eden by Arnold Arre

Andong Agimat by Arnold Arre

Martial Law Babies by Arnold Arre

Pick up any Arnold Arre graphic novel and it will take you on a journey into fantastic worlds. He takes on spins into Filipino myth and lore. He brings you along on a mission with an agimat-wielding hero. He also makes you part of a barkada, makes you witness their growing up, growing apart, and their finding true love.

Lola: A Ghost Story by J. Torres, Elbert Or, and Jason Dingo

Jesse is a balikbayan who returns home to attend his grandmother's funeral, where he learns not just about his [illegible] childhood but encounters all sorts of supernatural creatures. (And yes, there's a ghost in this story.)

Lexy, Stoner, and Aggro Sex, Gods, Rock & Roll by Oliver Pulumbarit

Reading this comic book will remind of "Friends" or "How I Met Your Mother," expect there's just three of them, and one of them is gay and the other one is bi and the third one is ... discovering a lot of things about himself and his friends.

"12" by Manix Abrera

Despite the fact that these twelve stories have no words, their silent tales will draw you in. The stories range from amusing and funny, one's love to the MRT, the tragedy of receiving super powers, and the heartache of losing your twin conjoined brother.

Culture Crash

Mangaholix

These comics anthologies are examples of how Pinoy creative artists were able to blend their love for Japanese manga and anime and create comic book stories that are very Pinoy. Check out the post-apocalyptic story "Pinig" from Culture Crash and romantic-action comedy "Ninja Girl Rei" from Mangaholix.

Love is in the Bag by Ace Vitangcol and Aid Sicy

Kate Morasilla is a girl who turns into a bag every time she gets stressed out, most especially when she sees her crush. Chaos and comedy ensues.

Trese by Budjette Tan and Kajo Baldisimo

This crime procedural comic book takes a different spin from the usual CSI methods of investigating, since Alexandra Trese, uses magic spells and her connections with the supernatural underworld to solve the most unusual of crimes. This comic book recently won the National Book Award for Best Graphic Literature.

Robert Killsson by Michael David

This must be the funniest, most obscene Pinoy comic book out right now (as opposed to just being "the most obscene" Pinoy comic book). The mutant kikiams (yes, it's about walking, talking kikiams) are the most jaunty in today's comic book scene and they get to say the stuff that we've always wanted to say but was afraid we'd get slapped for it.

Callcenta: A Call Center Life by Hazel Manzano

Beerkada by Lyndon Gregorio

Kikomachine by Manix Abrera

Pugad Baboy by Pol Medina, Jr.

I've lumped all these books together since they are compilations of daily newspaper comic strips, which marks the most popular form of comic art that the Pinoy is familiar with. Add to the fact that, for years, these comic strips have made Pinoys laugh and given them a peek into the lives of today's college kids, barkada, call center workers, and Pinoy families.

Wasted by Gerry Alanguilan

British comic book writer Warren Ellis read "Wasted" and said, "It is a marvelous little black book of lost love, unhinged hatred for everything everywhere, and making things right using only guns. Early work by a potentially brilliant creator." Believe it!

Elmer by Gerry Alanguilan

What if, one day chickens became as intelligent as humans, started to take on human jobs, live like humans, and have all the usual human problems. What if someone made a comic book about this strange alternate reality? That's exactly what Gerry Alanguilan did. Neil Gaiman said, "I liked Gerry Alanguilan's Elmer: one of my favorite comics. It's just heartbreaking and funny and so beautifully drawn." Elmer was recently published by an American and French comic book company.

Renaissance: Ang Muling Pagsilang, edited by Ernest Lee Hernandez

Not exactly a comic book, but should be considered a reference in Philippine comic book history. Renaissance is an art book that compiles works from Filipino artists from around the world. It is a great showcase of Pinoy talent, featuring new Pinoy super heroes, as well as Mars Ravelo's greatest characters drawn by today's top artists. This was published for the benefit of the flood victims of 2009.

[illegible]







By Adrian Uy

Fit to watch: The past decade's 25 must-see TV shows

Crime

1. The Wire (2002 to 2008)
2. The Sopranos (1999 to 2007)
3. Treme (2010 to present)
4. Dexter (2006 to present)

Procedurals with a Twist

5. Life on Mars & Ashes to Ashes (UK) (2006 to 2010)
6. Veronica Mars (2004 to 2007)
7. Pushing Daisies (2007 to 2009)

For Laughs

8. Arrested Development (2003 to 2006)
9. The Office (UK) (2001 to 2003)
10. Flight of the Conchords (2007 to 2009)
11. Community (2009 to present)
12. Modern Family (2009 to present)
13. The Daily Show with Jon Stewart (1999 to present)

Sci-Fi and Beyond

14. Lost (2004 to 2010)
15. Battlestar Galactica (2004 to 2009)
16. Doctor Who (2005 to present)
17. Fringe (2008 to present)
18. Firefly (2002)
19. Chuck (2007 to present)

Reality is the New TV

20. Top Chef (2006 to present)
21. The Amazing Race (2001 to present)
22. Mythbusters (2003 to present)

Drama

23. Mad Men (2007 to present)
24. Entourage (2004 to present)

Kids

25. Avatar: The Last Airbender (2005 to 2008)

Required reading . . .

From page E1

25 websites . . .

From page E1



Super LifeStyle



25 cool ways to work (or fake work)

From iPad apps to portable workstations, Super handpicks a few gadgets that will make your daily grind a little bearable



1 Business Bib



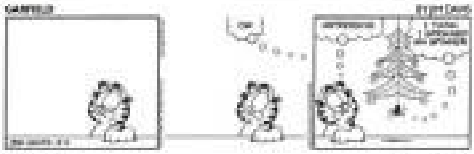
2 Hip Office



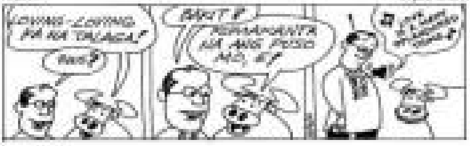
3 Embody Chair



GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN — By Jess Abrera



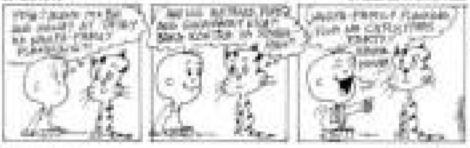
PUGAD BABOY — By Pol Medina Jr.



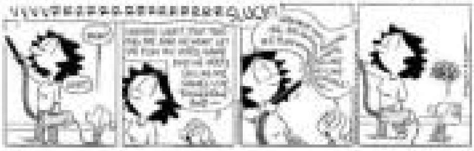
DICK TRACY



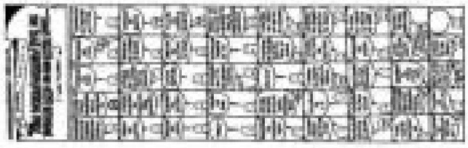
LOVEBIRDS — By Elizabeth Chionglo



BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



KIKO MACHINE — By Manix Abrera



BEN — By Daniel Shelton





SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By Jim Toomey





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

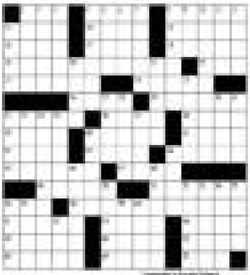
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

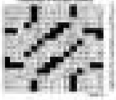
Conceptis Sudoku

7			8	1			9	
		9						8
	4				2			
2						5		
9				4				3
		7						2
			1				6	
4						7		
	3			8	6			9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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CRIME & ACTION

ANIMATED



DRAMA

ROMANCE



SCI-FI

LOCAL



SUSPENSE

25 Blogs you should be reading

Local Blogs

International Blogs



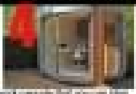
25 cool ways to work (or fake work)



LOST IN TRANSIT



Paolo R. Reyes



OfficePOD



Honda UX-3

6 Stealth Switch

7 Autonomobile



8 Note Table

9 Stainless Steel Wallet

10 The Rationalizer

11 Sulk Bag

12 Bright Blinds

13 Hi-Can

14 MiLi Pro

15 to 25



2b LifeStyle





STYLE SLAMBOOK

This week, 2bU! gets HK-based film assistant director to spill her style secrets

'I'm a crazy fireball'—Nikki Lau



Nikki gets her turn in front of the camera

By Pam Pastor
Photographs Harvey Marcelo

"I'M A CRAZY fireball with more energy than I know what to do with," says Nikki Lau, a HK-based film assistant director.

Her pressure job may keep her busy (she worked on "The Dark Knight" when the movie filmed in HK—how cool is that?), but she always has time for fashion.

Although she's happy most of the time behind the camera, we think her super style deserves on-cam action too—from her crazy bright red hair to her funky accessories and her knack for layering.

Full name: Nikki Lau

Age: 30

Hometown: Hong Kong/Boston

School/Course: Emerson College

Occupation: Film assistant director

Describe your style: Lots of color with loud accessories, mixing, mix-and-match layering.

Where do you shop? I love thrifting, [illegible] with D.I.Y. labels, anything that catches my eye, really.

What are your shopping rules? If I can't stop thinking about it, I get it. And everything is worth it if YOU like it. I really don't care about what other people think.

Favorite brands: [illegible], Baby Jane, H&M, Urban Outfitters, Vivienne Westwood

All-time favorite outfit: White Tees with jeans and Converse shoes

Tell us about your best style moment. My mom works in fashion, and my best style moments are always when we have fun [illegible] dining moment at home after a day of shopping. We giggle like girls.

Tell us about some of your favorite things: Rabbits, BMX, book-shopping, LA, my boyfriend Dave, working in film, knitting, cooking for my family.

What are five things you can't live without? Nail polish, my dog Laika, Godiva chocolates, my books, my phone.

If you can only keep five items from your closet, which would it be? My favorite jeans from [illegible]. These neon-yellow Repetto ballet flats, which were a gift from my mom's [illegible] designer friend from Paris, my white V-neck tee from Urban Outfitters, my Vivienne Westwood ring

SEE CRAZY, H2





Tribal feat

Go bold, wild and animalistic

CROCSKIN CLUTCH + LEOPARD PRINT SCARF



SNAKE PRINT SKIRT



LEOPARD PRINT CHIFFON DRESS

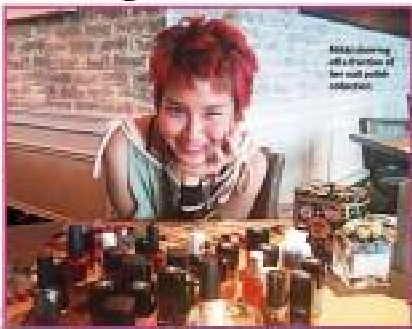
LEOPARD PRINT TOP + SNAKE PRINT SKIRT

LEOPARD PRINT STOCKINGS

SNAKESKIN TOP + SNAKESKIN WEDGE HEELS

LEOPARD PRINT PANTS + LEOPARD PRINT BOOTIES

‘I’m a crazy fireball’— Nikki Lau











FAB NEW FRAGRANCE SETS FROM SM

Make a scent-sible choice this Christmas by giving your loved ones a gift of fragrance from the SM Department Store. Fragrance, after all, has a mystique that is as alluring as the woman and intriguing as the man who delights in their favorite perfumes and colognes.

There are fab new fragrances that express the adventurism of the times, and paired with complementing bath and body products, make great holiday gift ideas. These fragrance gift sets are available at the SM Department Store's Beauty Section.

SCENTS FOR HER

FEMME BY BOSS. Femme by Boss celebrates the joys of being a woman. This fragrance gift set will bring sheer delight with its deliciously feminine scent and beautiful packaging. Femme's eau de parfum spray blends notes of citrus accords, tangerine, freesia, stephanotis, oriental lilies, rose petals, and musk accords to create an oriental floral scent, while its luxurious body lotion leads the way to fragrant, soft, and silky skin.







LACOSTE LOVE OF PINK. This is an ideal Christmas present for the woman with a lot of joie de vivre. The eau de toilette's scent opens of a candy zest-like blast of blood orange and lemon peel, followed by a sensuous floral combination of pink magnolia, quince flower, and stephanotis. The aroma of cedar wood and vanilla, on the other hand, leaves a wonderful [illegible] that lingers.



BEYONCE HEAT captures the essence of Beyonce — fiery and sexy, attractive and talented. The top notes of the parfum spray are warm with fruity scents of red vanilla orchid, magnolia, neroli and peach, while the heart notes combine honeysuckle, almond, and musky cream. Exotic notes of sequoia woods, tonka, and amber complete this exquisite combination. Sultry and sensuous, the Beyonce Heat gift set includes an Eau de Parfum, Gold Sparkling Body Lotion, and a Pearl Exfoliating Shower Gel.



SCENTS FOR HIM



HUGO ELEMENT. Designed for the urban traveler, this fragrance releases a light, refreshing scent of calone. Floral notes, as well as spicy character of ginger and coriander are used for the heart note, while cedar wood stays as the lingering scent. Perfect for the man about town's many travels, the Hugo Element gift set includes an eau de toilette, an after shave balm and shower gel.

HUGO MAN BY HUGO BOSS. Created with the young and spontaneous man in mind, Hugo Man by Hugo Boss combines refreshing spicy lavender fragrances with essences of fresh citrus, apples, and pine for a distinctive innovative scent. The Hugo Man by Hugo Boss gift set with an eau de toilette and 2 shower gels will complement today's restive 24/7 lifestyles.





LACOSTE ESSENTIAL SPORT. The invigorating essence of Lacoste Essential Sport features notes of frosted ginger, ice cold citrus, and mossy patchouli that are suited to the active and adventurous man. Take him on a scent-sational trip with the Lacoste Essential Sports set, which includes an eau de toilette and deodorant stick.

IN THIS ISSUE

Points of convergence, divergence at Cinemanilla /14

SATURDAY Special

REAL FOOD?
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Vilma, Nora and the two faces of show business

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN WE were writing film scripts decades ago, one of the movie companies that kept us particularly busy was Atty. Esperidion Laxa's Tagalog Ilang-Ilang Productions. We did one screenplay after another for him and directors like [illegible], Ishmael Bernal and Manding Borlaza—and many of them turned out to be hits starring then teen sensation, Vilma Santos, who was one of TIIP's house "properties."

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NOW SHOWING

Justice denied

By Nestor U. Torre



BANKS AND CROWE. Impassioned portrayals.



"THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER."

Appeal

Spectacle

Religious undercurrents

Learning from tragedy

Lotus Pond

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Source

Questionable viewer 'verdicts' on 'Star Power'

By Nestor U. Torre



CUNETA. Versatility is a bonus, not a prerequisite for singing stardom.

Standard

Stressful

Vilma, Nora and the two faces of show business

From page H1

Love affair

Attention

Exciting plans

Imminent return

Wahlberg's boxer . . .

From page H4



THE COLUMNIST (left) and Wahlberg pose in a tribute to Pacquiao, whom the actor calls "the best fighter ever in the history of the sport."



WAHLBERG, with Bale (left) in "The Fighter."

Not good enough

By Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]


ANDERSON AND CHIU: Obvious limitations.


MAGDAYAO: Acting isn't just pretending to be somebody else.

[illegible]

"Heartache" kids

[illegible]

Gerry M. de Leon declared winner in UP hymn-writing contest


DE LEON: His entry will be performed by the UP Singing Ambassadors.

[illegible]

Awards

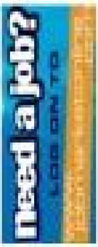
[illegible]

Member

[illegible]









Wahlberg's boxer role–with Pacquiao as model–delivers the goods

LOS ANGELES—Finally, the movie that took Mark Wahlberg nearly five years to make (and only 33 days to shoot), is ready to be shown this month. Mark has been telling us about "The Fighter" for quite some time now, including how he observed Filipino boxing champ, Manny Pacquiao, whenever he was training at the Wild Card Gym in LA.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Training schedule

Friction



SATURDAY Special

Candy Cane Chill
Peppermint and chocolate chunks in creamy vanilla soft serve
DQ Dairy Queen

Moving musical send-off for Regine Velasquez

• Calendar of Holiday Events •

CHRISTMAS ATTRACTIONS

Santa's Corner

Fireworks Display

Christmas Chorale Shows

HOLIDAY SPECIAL SALES

The Big CD & DVD Holiday Sale

The Great Toy Sale 2010

Marks & Spencer Gift Shop

Fair Trade Caravan

Christmas Around the World Bazaar

MasterCard Gift Wrapping Service**

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Christian Bautista Live! • December 11

Ogie Alcasid Live!

Verni Varga Live! • December 17

RJ Jacinto Live!

OTHER HOLIDAY EVENTS

Eastwood City - QC New Year's Countdown Party

HOLIDAY PROMO

Audi A4

Explore a kaleidoscope of shopping and dining finds this Christmas season at the Eastwood Mall



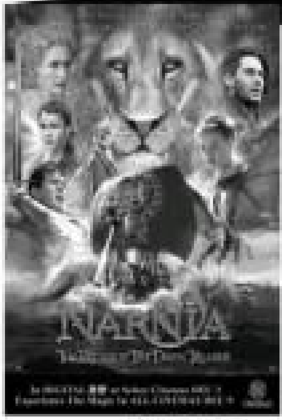
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MANILA

1. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

METRO EAST

1. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

NOVALICHES

FORUM ROBINSONS

2. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1



The Cinemanila International Film Festival Foundation and the Film Development Council of the Philippines present

12th CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

December 1 - 5, 2010

www.cinemanila.org.ph

STA. ROSA

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LIPA

1. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

DASMARIÑAS

3. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

STARMILLS

1. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

IMUS

2. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

ANGELES

4. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

TACLOBAN

1. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

DUMAGUETE

1. HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PT. 1

BACOLOD

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GENSAN

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12th CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

December 1 - 5, 2010

www.cinemanila.org.ph

Drama tells uplifting story of extraordinary equine icon

By Nestor Torre

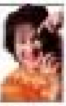


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Points of convergence and divergence at Cinemanila fest

By Nestor U. Torre

THE ONGOING 12th Cinemanila International Film Festival is shaping up to be a particularly eventful movie fest, with its attractively contrasting opening and closing films—and that's just for starters.

The festival, held at Robinsons Galleria's Movieworld, kicked off Wednesday with "Fiesta Sunday" by Wi Ding Ho. The film is about two Filipino migrant workers in Taiwan who discover a discarded sofa... "a discovery that transforms their usual Sunday into a tale of adventure, perseverance and self-discovery."

Instructive

We find this choice for opening movie fresh apt and potentially instructive, because it sees us from a foreign point of view—a microcosm of the complex "global Pinoy" phenomenon all wrapped up in (and by) one film, so to speak.

Both complementarily and contrastingly, the festival's closing film, "Amigo," is again wrought by a foreigner, John Sayles, but is also about us, but as we were in 1900. The points of divergence aren't only a matter of period, but also of film type, since "Amigo" is as forthrightly dramatic as "Fiesta Sunday" is a breezy romp.

"Amigo" is about a garrison under the command of US Lieutenant Compton, who is left to "protect a barrio during the Philippine-American War." Neither side can understand or trust the other, but they're forced to live together in order to survive the "dirty" war.

When the American occupation policy gets tougher, a character named Rafael has to answer to both the Americans and the Filipino partisans—with deadly consequences.

Thus, the two intrinsically similar and dissimilar movies end up as sort of bookends to the entire festival, imbuing it with a distinctly Filipino context, while significantly contributing to its "international" quality. That's a rare cinematic feat, and Cinemanila's organizers should be complimented for pulling it off so smartly and perceptively.

In addition, this year's festival has a Focus on Korean Cinema, plus other sections on movies from Taiwan and Southeast Asia. We're particularly interested in the documentaries showcased this year, which include "The Cove," "Laughing Kid" and "Return to Manila: Filipino Cinema." Visit www.cinemanila.org.ph.

Films for children

We trust that, for its 2011 edition, Cinemanila will consider presenting a special focus on new films for young viewers. Although mainstream cinema regularly comes up with fantasy features for children, and they make a killing at the box office, young viewers need to watch similarly imaginative but more reality-based movies, so they can relate the insights gained from them more directly to their own lives.

It would be exciting to see how filmmakers from different countries would variously appeal to the interests and sensibilities of young viewers, so we hope that the special focus will make next year's Cinemanila a truly festive film event, especially for children.



"AMIGO." Closes 12th edition of film event.

AM/FM

Relaxing music finds a home

By Ronald C. Mangubat

DESPITE ITS old-fashioned charm, radio has also become a high-decibel world inhabited by loud music and noisy, know-it-all hosts. So, when you're stressed out after a hard day's work, you find solace in some programs' cool sounds.

We asked fellow jazz lovers what their favorite jazz station was, and one stood out: Crossover 105.1 FM. Here's why:

"I like Crossover, because it caters to my age group. I find comfort in its familiar tunes so I stick with it... After work, in the car, while driving home, I first listen to news shows, then tune in to Crossover.

"My cousin likes listening to Mo Twister because she says he adds excitement to her boring life. But, my life is already too hectic as it is—so, what I need is some peace and quiet! I want to hear music that soothes my nerves and makes me smile as I reminisce about the good and bad times."—Jesus Quiapon, government employee

Sound

"Crossover 105.1 is less talk and more music. I don't like listening to the pseudo loudmouths barking on the airwaves every morning. I'm not really into jazz, but I like the 'lightness' of its sound—although some of the songs played are already quite old. I hope they can also play more new ones."—Feliciano Pesodas, media director

"I tune in to Crossover when I'm thinking about new ideas, brainstorming, or relaxing after a game or a night out. As I drive around, it cools me down and prolongs my patience for the metropolis' reckless drivers."—Dennis Garcia, creative director

"The station plays the music of jazz artists I'm familiar with—Patti Austin, Al Jarreau, Kevin Letau, Sergio Mendes, etc. I also like Gideon Bacon's segment, 'Understanding Bossa Nova.' It deepens my appreciation for jazz.

"However, I wish they would play more OPM jazz, featuring the likes of Pia Zaldiña, Louie Reyes, Jacqui Magno, Richard Merk and Eddie Katindig, because our jazz artists are also great—it pains me that jazz radio tends to focus on foreign artists."—Arnel Perez, call center agent

"The station plays my favorite jazz artists, so it's convenient for me especially when I'm driving. I don't have to switch stations just to find the songs I like."—Roy Robles, engineer

Soothing

"Frankly, I'm into jazz music, it only started recently—from Ella Fitzgerald and her colleagues, to that sexy saxophone sound of Kenny G, which I always found fascinating, since I started listening to Crossover, my outlook on my musical perspective, has—my disinterest in jazz has changed. Now, I'm very much into it. I even bought a book on jazz to learn more about the genre."—Carina Elayo, culinary arts student

E-mail: rgmguba@gmail.com





AUSTIN AND MAGNO. Appreciation for jazz.



Moving musical send-off for Regine Velasquez

From page F1

...in Nelo-style singing one knows from their idol. As the dramatic reams in her powerful cover of Streisand's "What Matters Most," she employs her low notes with as much power as the stratospheric ones she hits—without any hint of cracking or straining. She can belt one second, and whisper the next—so it's making the shifts of vocal dynamic vocal placements seem so easy as sighing.

And, unlike most recording artists these days, she doesn't rely on a tune's familiar melody to guarantee a hit—in fact, Regine can breathe new life into mediocre love songs and turn them into lovely romantic layered.



VELASQUEZ. Her latest album is a testament to her power and maturity as a performer.

Repertoire

It's "easier" to listen to "Fantasy"! Disc Two, whose 10-song repertoire consists of inspired covers. In Regine's able hands (or voice), America's "All My Life" and Chet Ruelo's "Without Me" take on new, very personal meanings. And, you will be comforted by the subtle moods of "Falling In Love At A Coffee Shop" and "Love Will Keep Us Alive." Even her excesses never feel showy and are judiciously executed, as she demonstrates in Neil Finn's "I Go Crazy."

The second disc's two stand-outs are Regine's unique covers of Madonna's "Papa Don't Preach" (which she turns into an engaging tale of forbidden love) and Gerard Kenny and Sheppard Levy's Witchit, "Bonnie."

It's a testament to the exceptional power and maturity as a performer that Disc One—which contains 12 brand-new OPM songs—is an even more accomplished collection, because she sings each track with greater emotional penetration.

For obvious reasons, Regine sings Ogie's compositions, "Pahinga Ko" and "You Don't Know," with searing intimacy and sincerity. But, the singer is wise enough not to get carried away by her emotions.

Raspy voice

She makes sure that the lovely melody of Noel Mendez's "Fairy Tale" is rendered with as much care and technique as the inspiring emotions it conveys. Rayvan Sabordo's chart piece, "Always," is reminiscent of Sergio Mendes' harmony-rich hits, and guest Jay Durias's raspy voice is good too.

Aside from Ahmad's "Walang Iba," the first disc's top picks include James Cabal "Time Is Forever," Nara Yabuan's "The Time," Edwin Marollano's "Sana'y Laging Kasiya" and Isabela Lorenzo's "Pauwi Na," a very personal song that Regine dedicates to Ogie: "You are happy with my choices/ You can frown and be one of the crowd/ Do you remember the me? Can we all need pampering in this world.../ I wanna grow up there, I wanna show up on the wedding day!"

SATURDAY Special



FANS' DAY

Janice de Belen is a natural

By Andy Bais

THE PREVIOUS weeks' items were heavy on viewers' observations about news programs. There's more variety this week.

Roque [illegible], business analyst: "If there's one show that relaxes me, it's the Z5's 'Spoon.' Janice de Belen is a natural—she's witty, spontaneous and warm. Her show is different from other cooking programs because it doesn't just show how a dish is being prepared. It also entertains with the repartee between Janice and her guests. Para lang silang nag-uusap sa bahay. And, the viewer gets to know the real person behind the celebrity guest."

"Travel shows can be formal but entertaining, like Susan Calo Medina's 'Travel Time.' But, they can also be wacky but informative, like 'Trip na Trip,' which proves that a travel show need not be boring to be educational. We learn about places and their people, as well as the 'urban legends' that aren't mentioned in travel guides."

Novelty

"Live radio on TV (dzRH) is a novelty. I like 'Showbiz Balita,' hosted by [illegible]. He and his guests are a lot of fun. And they seem natural. Some may be offended by his [illegible], but I'm entertained!"

Violet [illegible]: "For all the criticisms hurled against 'Willing Willie's' [illegible], at least the shows Willie Revillame and the other girls on the program some class and decency. She is beautiful even with the lightest make-up. Other female game-show hosts can learn a lot from her."

"And, can you please tell those actors to stop peppering their statements with the word 'sobra' / 'sobrang'? Like, 'sobrang ganda ng [illegible],' 'sobrang [illegible],' 'sobrang [illegible]'—etc. Goodness gracious! Sobrang [illegible], ha!"

Ironic

[illegible], print artist: "It's ironic that actors who have a lot of experience now end up as mere support for just another pretty-face actor and actresses.

"For some time now, the formula to remain in the public's consciousness or to reenergize a teen star's career is to be sexually daring—they pose in adult magazines, appear in R-rated movies, and refer to the move as 'taking on more mature roles.' Well, mature people don't have sex unless the story calls for it. They work on their craft first, not the other way around!"

(What do you want to say to our entertainment providers and stars? Make it discreet (pro or con), without bias or hidden [illegible] agenda; attached, please. We need to show that Filipino TV-film viewers aren't passive and uncaring, but are in fact discriminating and proactive. E-mail andybais@gmail.com)


DE BELEN: Witty, spontaneous and warm.



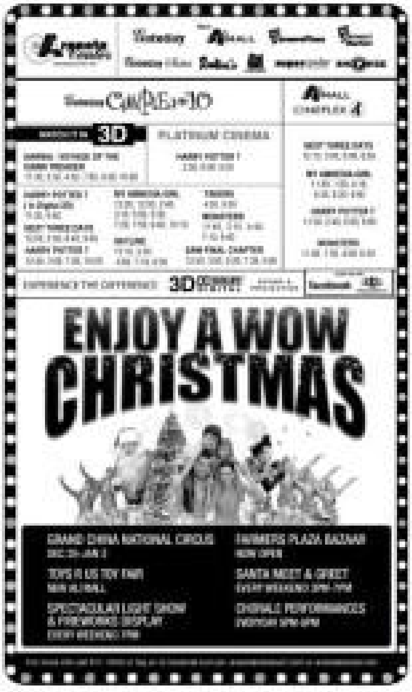


PEREZ (WITH HUSBAND, ROBERT AREVALO, RIGHT): "Nothing teaches an actor better than real experience."

Sofia revives 1966 Erap-Barbara Perez starrer





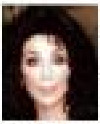


Dionne Warwick casts magic spell on Pinoy fans



WARWICK. Consummate artist.

Cher is a natural diva in 'Burlesque'



CHER. Praised by her costars.

Winning isn't everything

'Worst Case Scenario' on Discovery Channel

IMAGINE going about your daily routine when the unthinkable happens and disaster strikes—what do you do? Filmed like a feature film, "Worst Case Scenario" is a heart-pounding and informative six-part series that follows survival expert, Bear Grylls, as he puts himself in life-threatening situations to show viewers how to survive them. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m., starting Dec. 8.

Also on Discovery Channel, "Monster Tracker" (Dec. 5, Sunday at 10 p.m.) shows the construction of a flying, fire-breathing dragon to investigate how the laws of science are used to explain these fantastic creatures, and what our world would look like if dragons lived among us.

MONTAGE

'Magsimula Ka'

Don't miss the final performances of Ateneo Teo and Nestor Torre's groundbreaking Filipino-pop musical, "Magsimula Ka," directed by Nestor Torre, today at 3 and 8 p.m. at the Music Museum. Call 891-9999.

Market! Market! Cinema 1 renovation

The recently renovated Cinema 1 at Market! Market! now has better seating features and state-of-the-art equipment to give movie buffs exceptional viewing pleasure. The 301-seater theater allows full and wider views of the screen. High-er back rests and wider leg room assure viewers' comfort. And, the incomparable Dolby Digital 3D system provides clarity, depth and reverberating audio effects.

Ayala Malls Cinemas' Sure-Seats service can now be accessed via SMS by texting SURESEATS to 2910 (Globe and Smart subscribers) and i-Cast's mobile apps for BPI and Ramcar account holders.

'A Gift of Jazz: Miraretsu'

On Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. at Sofitel Philippine Plaza's Harbor Garden, "A Gift of Jazz" features outstanding Japanese jazz artists, Mitsumi, and Ajisho Tokugawa. The concert is presented by The Japan Foundation and The Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival Foundation. E-mail pijazz@gmail.com.

Shintaro Valdes and Immuvit

At age 40, Shintaro Valdes is one of the country's premier stylists. But, he admits that there's a noticeable difference in his performance. To compensate, he trains harder—and turns to his "secret weapon," Immuvit.

Valdes shares that Immuvit is the only vitamin supplement that contains the unique combination of two powerful ginsengs—Korean GPC and Siberian—and Coq10. The ginsengs help reduce diminished vigor and vitality, while COQ10 is vital in cell growth and maintenance. Immuvit's antioxidant properties protect the body from damage caused by free radicals and boost the immune system.

Nickelodeon's Christmas Toy Run

Until Dec. 12, kids can join the Nickelodeon Christmas Toy Run promo by participating in the SpongeBob's Word Search activity in Toy Kingdom and Toy Kingdom Express branches. Two lucky winners will not only run the storewide toys for them to bring home, but also for a good cause.

Log onto www.nick-asia.com.



VALDES: His "secret weapon" contains two powerful ginsengs.



ZSA ZSA: One of Christmas production's celebrity storytellers.

Free handset

Until Dec. 31, Sun Cellular's Sun Broadband Handset Giveaway promo is offered to new subscribers of Bundle Plan 650 or Regular Plan 799. Both plans include a free mobile handset. Fixed Load Plan (FLP) 150 is fully packed with one month of Sun-to-Sun text Unlimited and four hours of Sun-to-Sun calls, while FLP 350 comes with one month of Sun-to-Sun Text Unlimited and 10 hours of Sun-to-Sun calls. Log on to www.suncellular.com.ph.

At Richmonde Hotel

This month, Richmonde Grill's Chef's Exclusives presents a delectable three-course meal from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

At the Lobby Café, relish the irresistible Christmas Chocolate Lollipops and help orphaned, neglected and abused streetchildren through the Jesus Loves The Little Children Foundation. Call 638.7777.

Laguna dance troupe shines

The Sinag Kalinangan Dance Ensemble (Sikalab) from Pagsanjan, Laguna bagged a silver and a bronze medal at the recent Cheonan Heung-taryeong International Dance Festival in Cheonan City, South Korea. The troupe is a project of Laguna Gov. ER Ejercito and Pagsanjan Mayor Girlie Ejercito.

Concert at the Park

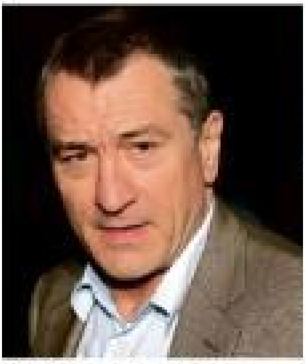
This Sunday at 5 p.m., Concert at the Park presents "Paskong Pinoy sa Talaga," featuring performances by the Manila City Chorale, the Manila Central University Chorale and Los Joboles Chorale.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 1 p.m., "The Tale of Despereaux," Dec. 5 at 5:05 p.m., "Penny to Pink," Dec. 6 at 5:40 p.m., "My Girl," Dec. 7 at 7 a.m., "Love Happens," Dec. 8 at 1 p.m., "At First Sight," Dec. 9 at 9 p.m., "The Last Samurai," Dec. 10 at 10:00 p.m., "Revolutionary Road."

Robert de Niro on Bio

On Dec. 21, 9 p.m., it's all about two-time Academy Award winner, Robert de Niro, on "Famous & Fabulous." Considered by many as one of the world's greatest actors of all time, De Niro hails from New York's Little Italy. After dropping out of school and being part of a local gang, De Niro eventually found his way to the stage and the big screen, becoming one of the most famous Hollywood personalities today.



DE NIRO: Will be featured on "Famous and Fabulous."





VALDEZ AND NAVA: Team up for a cause.

'Modern Marvels'

Premiering on Dec. 12, at 9 p.m. on the History Channel, "Modern Marvels: Top Ten" leads viewers into a breathtaking countdown of the top 10 technological innovations of the last generation. Prepare to be wowed as the program offers glimpses of the creations that have significantly changed the way humans approach life.

Taking off from this must-see program is the "Modern Marvels: Essentials" series, airing every Wednesday at 8 p.m. beginning Dec. 22. Featuring the best Marvel moments from History's most popular series, it highlights some of the world's most celebrated creations, tracing their early beginnings to their role in society today.

Basil teams up with Rowelle

Rowelle Nava teams up with Basil Valdez to headline the one-night-only concert, "Timeless," at Vine Bar of The Bellevue Hotel, North Bridgeway, Filinvest Corporate City, Paranaque City, Alabang, Muntinlupa today at 8 p.m.

The concert is Rowelle's project for the benefit of Bahay Mabel Kita Foundation to help the marginalized children and the elderly of Muntinlupa City.

'Peter Pan' at CCP

Pinky Pascual and Bessie Balaguer lend their voices to Ballet Philippines' Christmas production. The award-winning actors grace the re-staging of the company's "Peter Pan" on Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. at CCP.

Pascual and Balaguer are among the production's celebrity storytellers, including Margie Moran-Floirendo, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Tito Sisgo, who will join the Darling children in a special adventure with the boy who refuses to grow up.

"Peter Pan" will runs on the following dates: Dec. 3-5, 7, and 10 to 1. Visit www.ballet-philippines.org.













YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

Winning isn't everything

By Sharon Rebas-Mascardo

THE COLD breeze coming from her bedroom window woke Riona up from her sleep.

"Ah, it really is December," she said as she yawned and curled up in bed for a few more minutes.

Rrrrrrrrrrriiiiiiiiinnnnggg!

8:30 a.m.

"Hey baby, you don't want to be late for your choir practice," yelled Riona's mom.

"I'm coming, Mom... and I'm not a baby anymore," Riona protested.

As Christmas neared, the San Lorenzo Parish was all agog over its yearly "Christmas Choral Fest," a choir competition where kids aged 7-12 vied for the coveted Best Choir of the Year trophy.

Riona had been singing in a choir since she was 7—her beautiful voice had made her the soloist of the Cherubims for years. Now at 11, she was even more confident that they'd do well in this year's competition, after winning only second place last year.

"OK, let's start the rehearsal," Miss Cariaga said. "We have to practice well if we want to bring home the trophy. Everyone, let's start with 'The Christmas Alphabet'... ready, 1, 2, 3..."

"C is for the candy trimmed around the Christmas tree/ H is for the happiness with all the family/ R is for the reindeer prancing by the window pane/ I is for the icing on the cake as sweet as sugarcane..."

Even at rehearsals, Riona always sang as though she was already performing before an audience. And, at home, she would keep singing, as well.

"We'll bring home the top prize this time," she said confidently to the other members of the choir.

"With your great voice, we surely will," they chorused.

Champion

Last year's champion was Little Voices, but its soloist had already moved to the States with her family. So, this year, a new member was to lead the group. Her name was Claire. She was new to the parish and some people said she was a great singer. This would be her first time to participate in the contest. But, Riona dismissed reports about her new "competition" with a snooty sniff.

"I'm sure I'm much better than her," Riona remarked, adding "I've been singing since I was 7. I practice everyday, so there's nothing to worry about!"

Riona was so confident that she forgot that it was a choir competition. Many times, she thought only about herself and how great a singer she had become.

One day while walking home after choir practice, Riona passed by the house of Mr. Nuñez, the choirmaster of Little Voices, and heard his group rehearsing.

Riona walked closer to the house and peeked through the window.

"So, that is Claire... let's see if she can sing well," Riona muttered.

"He sees you when you're sleeping/ He knows when you're awake/He knows if you've been bad or good/ So be good for goodness sake!"

The Little Voices blended their voices well and their choreography was great, too.

"We can do that... in fact, we have done that many times over," Riona sneered.

"Alright, that was very good. If you continue doing that, we'll win again this year. Now Claire, let's practice your solo part," Mr. Nunez said.

Sneering then, Riona listened more intently.

"Away in a manger no crib for a bed/ The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head..."

Claire's angelic voice sent goosebumps through Riona—she couldn't believe what she had just heard!

Story

When Riona came to her group's rehearsal that weekend, she didn't tell anyone about what she had seen and heard. Instead, she told a story she just made up.

"You know what I heard about Claire from Little Voices? She's a fraud! Yes, she can sing, but she's not really that good. I think her dad is a friend of Mr. Nuñez, that's why she became part of the group." The other members looked at one another, with raised eyebrows.

"Anyway, let's practice our song and I'm very sure we'll beat them," Riona declared.

Days passed and all the competing choirs were very busy fine-tuning their songs, practicing their dance moves and preparing their costumes for their best performance on Dec. 20.

At home, Riona was very excited about the big day. But, her mother cautioned her, "Riona, you should remember that you are not the only member of the Cherubims Choir. You should also think about the other members of your group and how you can all work together and sing beautifully as one during the competition. Remember, winning the contest is cool, but you shouldn't focus on just that. Do your best and show the judges how great all of you are."

Sick

Three days before the big day, Riona woke up feeling sick. Her voice was hoarse, and she didn't know what to do.

"Mmmmmmommmmmmmm!," she cried out, and her mother rushed to her side.

"Calm down, my baby. Everything is going to be OK. You just have to rest, and I promise you that you'll be fine," her mom assured her.

The big day finally came and, as her mom had promised, Riona was feeling much better!

The choirs gathered at the back of the church's altar for some final pointers. They all looked very pretty in their bright costumes.

The parish priest opened the program and the first group was called—then the second—and then the third.

Applause

They all sang well and received loud applause from the audience and the panel of judges. The Cherubims and Little Voices were the only remaining contestants to perform. Both groups looked confident—and a bit anxious at the same time.

"M is for the mistletoe where everyone is kissed/ A is for the angels who make up the Christmas list/ S is for the Santa who makes every kid his friend/ Be good and he'll bring you everything in your Christmas Alphabet!"

The crowd cheered as the Cherubims finished their number and took a bow.

The Little Voices followed.

"Oh! You better watch out/ You better not cry/ Better not pout / I'm telling you why / Santa Claus is coming to town.../ Santa Claus is coming... to town!"

Again, the crowd went wild. Everyone held his breath as the audience waited for the announcement of the winners. Riona felt nervous as she glanced at Claire, who was sitting in a corner.

"Please, let us win the first

WINNING, 8







Jollibee celebrates 700th store milestone in Baguio City



President Benigno Aquino III joins the burger team at Jollibee's 700th store celebration at Harrison Road in Baguio City. With the president are (left) Jollibee Foods Corporation Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Tony Tan Caktiong and (right) Jollibee President Ernesto Tanmantiong.

Jollibee, the Philippines' leading fast food chain, formally marked its 700th store milestone with a grand celebration in Harrison Road, Baguio City, attended by President Benigno Aquino III.

"We are very honored to be joined by President Aquino here in Baguio for this historic occasion, as we share the same goal of working towards a better quality of life for every Filipino. [illegible]

[illegible]

Sharing the success with the community

[illegible]

LifeStyle

Rustan's Great Holiday Expectations



Double Delight

They may have been inseparable since birth–sharing winsome looks, petite frames and a name synonymous to otherworldly elegance–but twins Camille and Nicole Tantoco are fashion worlds apart.

The Joys of *holiday* dressing

The joy of youth is when one can explore so many styles in looking for his or her individuality. Check out these fun fashion inspirations.

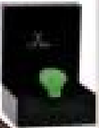








It's par
time
Rusta





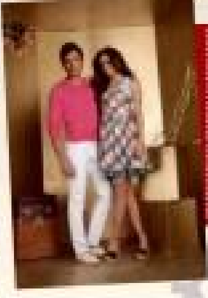














The Joys of *holiday* dressing





So many STUFF at Rustan's

STUFF is a fun brand where one can find cute and lovable gift items



Bear Mobile holder



Rubber Duckie calendar



Bully key ring



Kiwi fruit table clock

